

of so much in so limited time. Although this has been achieved by a Democratic administration, we boast not of it as a party accomplishment, for patriotic Republicans have given ungrudging support.

While we have done much it is now evident more remains to be done. Undoubtedly many did once underestimate the dangers which confronted us. Some believed and said Germany wanted the United States in the war to make terms of peace easier for her. "Lay not that flattering unction to your soul." Germany expected then, and expects now, to triumph. The Kaiser is both a genius and a fanatic. He believes God is fighting with him, and doubts not the combination will win. Ambitious for more renown than came to Alexander, Cæsar, or Napoleon he expects to conquer the world. Frankly he says peace shall not come until his enemies admit that his armies have been victorious. Thus he seeks to control by force and impress on the universe his autocratic theory of government. His terms of peace embrace the acquisition of territory in Europe and Asia, the collection of indemnity from the United States, the control of world trade, and reshaping the policies of those governments founded upon the consent of the governed.

Germany may or may not have had these terms in mind in July, 1914, but such is the meaning of her warfare today. Whatever mist may have obscured the issue in the past has been swept away. We now see and thoroughly understand the causes back of this world conflict. The assassination of a prince in the Bosnian capital has been forgotten, and we are thinking less of the wrongs of the Belgians. The fight is now the age-long conflict between autocracy and democracy. From Marathon to Verdun it has been waged. History says autocracy was exterminated in America, at Yorktown, and in Europe at Waterloo. Patriots of the Revolution thought democracy perpetuated in the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States. But today we fight again for a government of the people against a government by force. Allied victory alone will make America again what she was in 1914. In order to preserve our form of government we must win the war. German victory or inconclusive peace will swing back